

An Excellent Ballad, intituled, The Constancy of
SUSANNA.
To an Excellent New Tune.



There was a man in Babylon,
of reputation great by fame,
He took to wife a fair woman,
Susanna was the call'd by name:
A woman fair and vertuous,
Lady, Lady,
Why would not we of her learn thus,
to love Godly?
Vertuously her life she led,
she feared God, she stood in awe;
As in the story you may read,
was well brought up in Moses Law.
Her parents they were Godly folk,
Lady, Lady,
Why should not we then talk
of this Lady:
That year two Judges there were made
which were the Elders of Babylon;
To Joachim's house was all their trade,
who was Susanna's husband then:
Joachim was a great Rich man,
Lady, Lady,
These Elders oft to his house came,
for this Lady.
Joachim had an Orchard by,
where Susanna commonly
her self did daily there solace:
And that these Elders soon espied,
Lady, Lady,
And privately themselves did hide,
for that Lady
her chaste and constant life was cry'd,
by these Elders of Babylon,
As me convenient they espied,
to have this Lady all alone:

In this Orchard it came to pass,
Lady, Lady,
Where she alone her self did wash
her fair body.
The Elders came to her anon,
e thus they said, fair Maid good speed
The doors are fast, the Gods are gone,
consent to us and do this deed:
For we are wren of no mistrust,
Lady, Lady,
And yet to thee we have a lust,
O fair Lady.
If that to us thou dost say nay,
a testimonial we will bring,
we will say that one with thee lay,
how can it thou then av to this thing?
Therefore consent and to us turn,
Lady, Lady,
For we to thee in lust do burn.
O fair Lady,
Then did she sigh, and said alas!
now woe is me on every side,
was ever wretch in such a case,
shall I consent any to this deed?
Whether I do or do not,
Lady, Lady,
It is my death right well I wot,
O true Lady.
Better it were for me to fall
into your hands, and be guiltless,
then that I should consent at all
to this your shameful wickedness:
And even with that (where as she stood)
Lady, Lady,
And the Lord she cry'd aloud,
pittifully.



These Elders doth likewise again,
against Susanna aloud they cry'd,
Their filthy lust could not obtain,
their wickedness they thought to hide,
Unto her friends they then her brought,
Lady, Lady,
And with all speed the life was sought
of that Lady.
On the morrow she was brought forth,
before the people for to stand,
That they might hear & know the truth,
how these two Elders Susanna found,
The Elders swore and thus did say,
Lady, Lady,
How that they saw a young man lay
with this Lady.
Judgement there was for no offence,
Susanna causeless she must dye,
These Elders bore such evidence,
against her they did verifie:
Which were believed then indeed,
Lady, Lady,
Against Susanna to proceed,
that she should dye.
Susanna's friends that stood by her,
they did lament and were full woe,
when as they saw no remedy,
but that to death she then must go;
Then unto him that is so just,
Lady, Lady,
In God was all her hope and trust,
to him they cry.
The Lord her voice heard, and beheld
the Daughter's cry of Israel,
His Spirit he raised in a Child,
whose name was call'd young Daniel:
Who cry'd aloud whereas he stood,
Lady, Lady,
I am clear of the guiltless blood
of this Lady.

Are you such fools, quoth Daniel then?
in Judgement you have not done well
Nor yet the right way have you gone,
to Judge the Daughter of Israel:
By this witness of false villain,
Lady, Lady,
Wherefore to Judgement turn again,
for that Lady.
And when to judgement they were set,
he called for these wicked men,
And soon he did them separate,
putting the one from the other then:
He askt the first where he did see
that fair Lady?
He said under a Mulberry Tree,
who spied fairly.
Thou lyest said Daniel on thy head,
thy sentence is before the Lord,
He had that forth he might be led,
and bring the other that bare Record:
To see how they two did agree,
Lady, Lady,
He said under a Pomegranate Tree,
who spied fairly.
Said Daniel as he did before,
behold the Messenger of the Lord,
Stand waiting at the Door,
even to cut thee with a sword:
and even with that the multitude,
aloud did cry,
Give thanks to God with a conscience
for this Lady.
They dealt ill with these wicked men,
according as the Scripture saith,
They did as with their Neighbour then,
by Moses Law were put to Death:
She innocent persecuted was,
Lady, Lady,
As God by Daniel brought to pass,
for this Lady.